



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

**CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION**  
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**SAIPAN INT'L FISHING TOURNAMENT ON JULY 9-10, 2016**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The Saipan Fishermen's Association (SFA) will stage the 32<sup>ND</sup> Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 9-10, 2016.

Last year more than 70 boats and 200 fishermen and crew competed in the two-day fishing derby.

Game fish categories are: Bill Fish (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>), Yellow Fin (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>), Wahoo (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>), Mahi Mahi (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>), and Skipjack (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>). Prizes will also be awarded for Total Weight and Grand Prize, and the SFA will also award a special \$10,000 prize to the 1st participant to land a marlin weighing over the record 9421bs.

“The Saipan International Fishing Tournament is a weekend of camaraderie, as well as competition, and we look forward to welcoming all returning and new fishermen next month,” said SFA PR and Ad Chairman Martin Duenas.

This year, a Marianas Trench food festival is also being proposed to hosted by another organization in tandem with the tournament. The festival would highlight fresh seafood sampling on-site at Smiling Cove Mariana.

Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion

expressed support for the new festival.

“As a form of sports fishing promotion, the MVA has supported the Saipan International Fishing Tournament through the years with financial contributions, as well as manpower and PR support,” said Concepcion. “We’re also excited about the new idea of a seafood festival for visitors and residents, and the MVA will join the list of sponsors this year to see if it’s an event that can have longevity and popularity with our visitors.”

The tournament registration cost is \$150 per boat, inclusive of a captain and one crew member. Each additional angler is \$25.

As a requirement, the Department of Public Safety’s Boating Safety Unit will again conduct boat safety inspections. Participants needing to have their boat inspected during the week of July 4-8 2016, should contact the Boating Safety office at 670.664.9180 to arrange for an appointment.

The awards ceremony will be held on Monday, July 11, 2016. The SFA will produce a souvenir Tournament Program Booklet, to be provided to all participating captains and crew members. Tournament Entry Forms, Rules and a Schedule of Events are now available under the Events Calendar at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com) and at Fishing Tackle. For more information about the event, please contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Ed Diaz at the MVA at 670.664.3200 or email [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com), or log on to the SFA website at [www.sfacnmi.com](http://www.sfacnmi.com).



Captain Frank Roberto, second from right, son Aaron Roberto, third from left, and another crew member pose with their winning catch, a 276 lb. Marlin, at the 2014 Saipan International Fishing Tournament. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament will be held on July 9-10, 2016.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct daily flights from Seoul and Busan and Jeju Air provides daily service from Seoul. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, to Saipan is available. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made by Delta Air Lines to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and United Airlines via Guam. Russian and Taiwanese visitors usually arrive via Seoul. For more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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